



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Meeting Minutes

#1 Call to Order/Welcome

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council was held on Monday January 07, 2013 at the Santa Cruz County Complex, Courtroom A, 2150 N. Congress Drive, Nogales, Arizona 85621. Chair William Kirkpatrick welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m. He thanked Senior Director Erin Lyons for attending.

Members Present

Chair William Kirkpatrick, Vice-Chair Karen Woodford, Lee Vellom, Danna Gallardo, Rene Travers-Huerta and Veronica Santillo

Members Attending Telephonically

Dr. Melisa Lunderville and Anna Lepa

Members Absent

None

#2 Approval of Minutes

Chair Kirkpatrick directed everyone to the draft of the minutes of November 09, 2012 and asked if there was a motion to approve. Vice-Chair Woodford so moved, Member Gallardo seconded the motion, motion carried.

#3 Call to the Public

Rev. Jean Rogers addressed the Regional Council with the request to add additional Quality First Centers in the region. St. Andrews Preschool would benefit from the child care scholarships. She added that St. Andrews is a NAYEC approved preschool. She stated that they were aware that the Regional Council had added two Quality first Centers and they would like to be one of the selected two.

#4 Fiscal Year 2014 Funding Plan: Review & Discussion

Regional Director Francisco Padilla reviewed with the Regional Council each strategy's allotment for SFY2014, which will begin July 1, 2013. There was no discussion.

#5 SFY13 Quarter 1 Data Report: Discussion

Regional Director Padilla then led the Regional Council through the Data Reporting documents. He explained areas of concern as well as grantees exceeding service target numbers.

#6 Systems Building: Discussion

Regional Director Padilla explained the need for all sectors of the community to improve services to children birth to age 5. He discussed some of the challenges for any region; duplication of services, turf issues and communication between partners. He asked the Regional Council where they felt they were on the System Building Scale: Readiness Level One, Readiness Level Two or Readiness Level Three. He opined that he felt this Regional Council was between a Level One and a Level Two. Many of the strategies already have achieved a large measure of interconnection, but a true system approach has not been achieved. Asked for an example he cited the Family Resource Center as having worked well with many other local agencies, including school districts. For an area where we have made little impact he referenced the local Head Starts, where we have had very little interaction.

#7 Regional Director's Report

Turning to attachment #5A, Director Padilla explained that this expenditure report was reflective of first half of fiscal year 13. There may be other submitted expenses that have yet to be processed but it appears most grantees are submitting reimbursements appropriately.

He then discussed Regional Benchmarks and described these as an ongoing discussion. After the Regional Council chose their School Readiness Indicators, the next step is Benchmarking. Senior Director Lyons added that Benchmarking is the process that will measure or define how much progress you want to make. These Benchmarks are not required to be final until August 2014. There will be workgroups forming in late February with other Southeast Regions. These other regions may have different strategies but similar School Readiness Indicators and discussions would be helpful. Regional Council members will be advised of upcoming dates.

Referencing the next attachment, Regional Director Padilla explained the new component of First Things First-Quality Assurance. In order to maintain high quality services there must be monitoring. This new division at the Phoenix level will be responsible for establishing monitoring cycles using financial and service data; it will be staffed by three Quality Assurance Specialists and funded by state-wide dollars.

He reminded everyone that in February they will need to select a Needs and Assets Vendor for the 2014 report. The same vendor list is in place. Because there will not be any new data available from the last report, this time the Regional council has the opportunity to request additional information that previously would have had additional cost. These options include; additional facts, depth to anything previously reported, specific zip code studies, but a menu of considerations is being prepared.

He closed reminding everyone that at the February meeting First Things First CEO Rhian Allvin will attend and share information. It will include a site visit to the Nogales Family Resource Center, located at the A.J. Mitchell Elementary School Campus. He then stated that he had spent some enjoyable time during the holidays going to the various preschools in the region and reading to the students. This was the first time that we had any encounters with several of the schools.

#8 Meeting Reminder/Adjourn

Chair Kirkpatrick thanked everyone for their time and attention. He reminded everyone that the next Regional Partnership Council would be meeting on February 4, 2013, 3:30 p.m. at the A.J. Mitchell Elementary School, Conference Room, 855 N. Bautista St. Nogales, Arizona 85621.

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Travers-Huerta and was seconded by Member Santillo. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Submitted by Susan Faubion

Approved by 

Dated this 4th day of February, 2013